

223517



September 3, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

RE Canadian National Railway's Proposed Acquisition of EJ&E West Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Verso Paper Corp., previously submitted a statement to the Surface Transportation Board in support of the Canadian National Railway's proposed acquisition of EJ&E West Company. The purpose of this letter is to express our particular support for CN's August 14, 2008 petition for modification of the procedural schedule to allow the STB to reach a final decision on the merits of the proposed transaction subject to maintenance of the environmental status quo pending completion of the STB's environmental review.

Verso Paper is one of the leading North American suppliers of coated papers, which are used primarily in media and marketing applications, including catalogs, magazines and commercial printing applications, such as high-end brochures, annual reports and direct mail advertising. We operate four paper mills in the United States. CN directly serves our Quinnesec, Michigan mill through shipments of logs, clay, chemicals, wood pulp, and our finished products, and handles shipments from our mills.

We believe that the proposed acquisition will result in improved speed and reliability for our shipments through the Chicago area, and will help relieve congestion for all railroads in the Chicago area.

We recognize that there are valid reasons for the STB to conduct an environmental review of the proposed transaction. The CN's proposal would allow the environmental review to continue, without any change in the environmental status quo. This avoids the risk of loss of the benefits expected from the CN's proposed transaction. Accordingly, we urge the STB to recognize that the CN's request is in the public interest and to grant the CN's petition for modification of the procedural schedule.

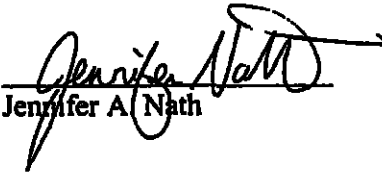
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Partridge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Partridge
Director of Supply

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this 3rd day of September, 2008, served the foregoing letter of Michael Partridge, Director of Supply, Verso Paper Corp , upon all known parties of record in this proceeding by causing a copy to be sent to each by first-class mail or a more expeditious method


Jennifer A. Nath